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we might expect that inbreeding might still more frequently occur, but, after all, it is only where animals are subjected to the control of man that it is possible to make observations which can give us any satisfactory results upon this subject; so that, as before suggested, our only hope for reliable information on this subject must rest with the breeders of domestic animals. Should they take interest enough in it to make careful and numerous and long-continued experiments with the various species of animals under their control, something like certainty might be obtained where we have now nothing better than conjecture.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., February 24, 1887.

SONNETS.

CACTUS.

(Prickly Pear.)

I KNOW an isle, clasped in the Sea's strong arms,
 Sport of his rage and sharer of his dreams;
 A barren spot to alien eyes it seems,
 But for its own it wears unfading charms.
 From Spring's first kiss to Autumn's last caress,
 Gayly its moorlands bloom, from strand to strand;
 And many a favored nook, by west winds fanned,
 Holds flowers unmatched for tint and loveliness.
 But most I mind me of a lonesome shore,
 For countless gulls a harbor and freehold,
 Where, like some shipwreck'd buccaneer of old,—
 Cast on the sands, condemned to rove no more,—
 In spiny armature, secure and bold,
 The Cactus lies at length and guards its gold.

NANTUCKET, July.

NOTE.—The island of Nantucket is the northern limit of *Opuntia vulgaris*.

PARNASSIA.

(Grass of Parnassus.)

Oh, stately, calm, and pure, as best beseems
 One born in that far land of sun and song,
 Beloved of gods and men, whose vales along

Strayed once the sacred Nine, and by whose streams
 The great Pan piped ;—remote and strange it seems
 To find thee here, 'mid grasses rank and long,
 Where, by the hidden brook, serene and strong
 As Autumn's smile, our clear-eyed Gentian gleams.
 Perchance it was her blue and fringed eyes
 That lured thee from thy storied home to range,
 And tempted thee to give, in glad exchange
 For such a heaven, thy classic Grecian skies :
 It well may be, since beauty knows no clime,
 And love, immortal, conquers space and time.

October.

WITCH-HAZEL.

What time the dainty darlings of the Spring,
 Summer's ripe beauties, Autumn's brilliant train,
 In swift procession trooped o'er hill and plain,
 Thro' vale and grove, while every bird did sing
 His fitting song ;—we took no note of thee,
 O arch enchantress of stream-haunted woods,
 Waving aloft thy flowerless magic rods,
 And whispering to the winds their mystery !
 But when the merry carnival is o'er,
 The banners furled, the gay robes laid away,
 Thou shinest forth in marvellous array,
 Charming our thoughts from all that passed before.
 Is it to witch old Winter with thy wiles,
 This burst of golden hair and sun-bright smiles ?

Emily Shaw Forman.

November.